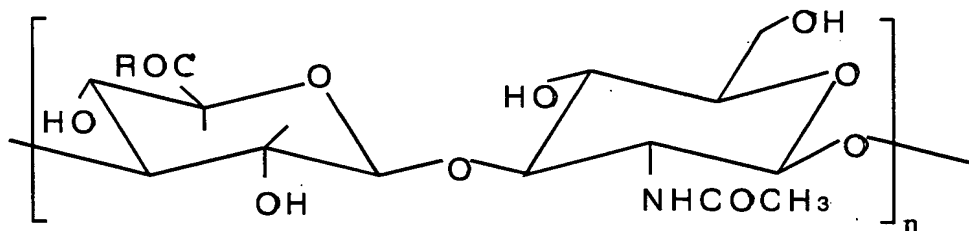


CLAIMS

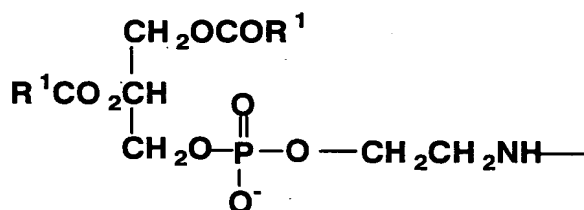
1. A hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1):



10

... (1)

wherein R is a group represented by the following formula (1)-a, -OH or -ONa,



... (1) - a

wherein R¹ is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms,

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and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % of R is the group represented by the above formula (1)-a.

20 2. The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein n is 300 to 30,000.

3. The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein two R¹CO-'s in the formula (1)-a are both oleoyl groups.

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4. A hydrogel of the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to 3.

30 5. A molded form of the hyaluronic acid compound of any

one of claims 1 to 3.

6. A joint treating material which is the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to 3.

5

7. The joint treating material according to claim 6 which has cartilage restoring ability.

8. Use of the hyaluronic acid compound of claim 1 as a
10 joint treating material.